

# **SCARBOROUGH FAIR**

**ENGLISH FOLK SONG** 

Arranged by

Brian Balmages

#### Instrumentation

- 1 Conductor's Full Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass
- 1 Piano



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#### The Arranger

Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an active composer, conductor, producer, and performer. He received his bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and his master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. Mr. Balmages's works for symphonic band, orchestra, and brass have been performed throughout the world, including the College Band Directors National and Regional Conferences, the Midwest Clinic, the International Tuba/Euphonium Conference, the International Trombone Festival, and the International Trumpet Guild Conference. His active schedule of commissions has included groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Miami Symphony Orchestra, the University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Dominion Brass, and others. He has also enjoyed world premieres in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys engagements with numerous honor bands and orchestras, university groups, and professional ensembles throughout the country. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, College Band Directors Regional Conference, Mid-Atlantic Wind Conductors Conference, the Atlantic Classical Orchestra Brass Ensemble, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. He has also served as an adjunct professor of instrumental conducting and acting director of the symphonic band at Towson University in Maryland.

Currently, Mr. Balmages is the Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife, Lisa, and their sons, Jacob and Collin.

### **About the Music**

The original lyrics of *Scarborough Fair* tell the story of a man who asks his former love to complete a series of impossible tasks to win his heart back. These tasks include knitting a shirt with no seams, washing it in a dry well, plowing an acre of land with the horn of a lamb, and others. The lyric and emotional content of this arrangement comes from the end of the song, where it is implied that "love imposes impossible tasks…though not more than any heart asks." The music ends with the somber realization that she will never be able to complete these tasks and ask for him back.



String Editing: Carrie Lane Gruselle

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